with de Jong (1972), who unhesitatingly regarded *Pyrgus sibirica* (Reverdin, 1911) from Altai as a Siberian subspecies of *P. centaureae* (Rambur, 1839) (having laid a solid base of 'the biological species concept' to his conclusion), while Devyatkin (1990) subsequently proved with certainty that the taxa are sympatric in the Altai Mountains.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that Dr P.S. Wagener, cited by de Jong & Karsholt in favour of their view (Hesselbarth, van Oorschot & Wagener, 1995), has commented in support of my proposal (BZN **55**: 105–106; June 1998), as indeed would many other authors who have had to use the name *faunus* because no better solution to this nomenclatural problem has ever been proposed.

Additional references

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Comment on the proposed designation of *Iguanodon bernissartensis* Boulenger in Beneden, 1881 as the type species of *Iguanodon* Mantell, 1825, and proposed designation of a lectotype (Reptilia, Ornithischia)

(Case 3037; see BZN **55**: 99–104, 172, 239–241)

David Norman

The Sedgwick Museum, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EQ, U.K.

I would like to reply to the recent objection to the proposal to stabilise the generic name *Iguanodon* Mantell, 1825 by the designation of *I. bernissartensis* Boulenger in Beneden, 1881 as the type species, as advocated by Charig & Chapman in their application (BZN **55**: 99–104, June 1998). While I sympathise with the views of Dr Sues (BZN **55**: 240–241, December 1998) regarding the historical primacy of the original teeth described by Gideon Mantell in 1825, Sues nevertheless admits that they lack diagnostic characteristics which provide for unequivocal stability of such an important (historically-speaking) dinosaur name.

In my monograph on *Iguanodon* published in 1986 (to which Sues refers) I wrestled with this particular taxonomic problem and concluded that it might be best to reserve the name *Iguanodon anglicus* Holl, 1829 exclusively for the original teeth collected from the now abandoned (and infilled) quarry at Cuckfield, Sussex, and described by Mantell. I was attempting to preserve what I deemed to be historically important icons that could be associated with the first establishment of the name. This is the point to which Sues pays particular attention, in the belief that the teeth discovered by Mantell may, in time, prove to have some diagnostic characters.

I discussed this matter with the late Dr Alan Charig on several occasions, and have had the benefit of studying the teeth of a wide range of iguanodontid dinosaurs, including the European forms *Iguanodon atherfieldensis*, *I. bernissartensis* and *I. fittoni*, as well as *I. lakotaensis* from North America, *Ouranosaurus nigeriensis* from North Africa and *Altirhinus kurzanovi* from Mongolia, and the more distantly related *Camptosaurus* from North America/England. My view is that the circumstances suggested by Sues (that tooth characters may emerge that are likely to prove diagnostic for the teeth described originally by Mantell) are remote in the extreme. The degree of variability exhibited in the teeth of all the animals mentioned above, both within the jaw at any one time (positional variation) and as a consequence of changes due to growth (ontogeny), are such that teeth alone cannot be used reliably for taxonomic assignment.

In view of this I disagree with Sues's objections and support the proposal of Charig & Chapman, which modifies what I originally (1986) hoped would prove to be a 'safe' solution to the problem of the nomenclatural vulnerability of the famous dinosaur name *Iguanodon*.

Comments on the proposed conservation of the names *Hydrosaurus gouldii* Gray, 1838 and *Varanus panoptes* Storr, 1980 (Reptilia, Squamata) by the designation of a neotype for *H. gouldii*
(Case 3042; see BZN **54**: 95–99, 249–250; **55**: 106–111, 173–176)

(1) R.T. Hoser
Death Adder Services, PO Box 599, Doncaster, Victoria, 3108, Australia

1. The authors of the application (Prof Robert Sprackland, Prof Hobart Smith and Dr Peter Strimple) have stated (BZN: **54**: 95) that 'the purpose of this application is to conserve the near universal usage of the name *Varanus gouldii* (Gray, 1838) for the sand monitor or Gould's goanna which is found over most of Australia, and of *V. panoptes* Storr, 1980 for the yellow spotted monitor from areas of western and northern Australia, New Guinea and Indonesia (family VARANIDAE)'. The authors' alleged extent of usage for the names *V. gouldii* and *V. panoptes* is demonstrably false, making their application fundamentally flawed, and for this reason I oppose it.

2. The history of the taxonomy of the species originally described as *Varanus gouldii*, *V. panoptes* (a junior synonym of *gouldii*), and *V. flavirufus* (originally described as a subspecies of *gouldii*) is not in dispute and is summarised by Böhme (1991) and the authors of the application. In his 'Taxonomic notes on the status of *Varanus gouldii* and *V. panoptes*', Sprackland (1995) accurately summed up the taxonomy of *V. gouldii* as follows:

(i) Legal questions concerning the taxonomic validity of the names of monitor (goanna) lizard species in Australia require a status report on the taxonomic validity of the names in question, and an explanation of the reasons for that status. The two names involved are *Varanus gouldii* (Gray, 1838) and *Varanus panoptes* Storr, 1980. The taxonomic history of each name is provided, together with pertinent references to the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (called 'the Code' below), which provides the internationally accepted standards for naming and use of names in zoological science.